

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:878
ANSWERED ON:29.02.2000
KASHMIRI PANDITS
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made any efforts for the return of the Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu & Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated number of kashmiri Pandits displaced;
- (d) the number of Kashmiri Pandits killed during the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, year-wise;
- (e) the financial assistance provided by the Government to them for their employment and rehabilitation; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety of Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in r/o parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.878 for reply on 29.2.2000.

(a) & (b): The Government of J&K has informed that issue regarding return of Kashmiri migrants is on top of its agenda and they are contemplating an action plan for early and safe return of the migrants to the Valley. Separately, a social interaction programme has been initiated by the State Government under which the migrants have visited the Valley so as to pave the way for their early return to the Valley.

(c) & (d): As per available information, 51,122 Kashmiri migrant families are living in different parts of the Country. Majority of these are staying in Jammu (29074 families) and Delhi (19338 families).

As per information provided by the State Government, the number of civilians of various communities killed by militants in J&K during 1997, 1998 and 1999 are 938, 867 and 821 respectively.

(e): While the policy of the Government is to minimise the hardships of the migrants temporarily staying outside the State, all possible financial assistance is also provided. Apart from cash relief & dry ration temporary accommodation is being provided to the needy migrants. Government of J&K has extended the benefits of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) and State Self-Employment Scheme to the migrants living in J&K. The Government of India have also requested other States to extend similar benefits to the migrants staying in their States.

(f): The Government of J&K has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter-alia, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional framework of Operations Groups, etc. for safety of J&K citizens including the Kashmiri Pandits. Necessary steps have also been taken to flush out militants, check infiltration and curb militant activities by intensive patrolling including of areas inhabited by minorities.